

facilities for solid materials; systems for generation, transmission, and distribution of electric energy; communications systems; roads, highways, trails, and other transportation facilities; and other systems and facilities which are in the public interest.

WITHDRAWALS

A withdrawal is a management tool used to implement resource management planning prescriptions. Withdrawals also represent a means to transfer administrative jurisdiction from one federal agency to another. In addition they are used to close public lands to some or all of the public land laws or mineral law, or to dedicate land for a specific public purpose. The restrictions generally segregate the lands from some or all the public land laws and some or all of the mining and mineral leasing laws for a specific period of time. Examples might include a dewatering limiting river flows or a withdrawal might close an area to non-metalliferous mining (cement quality limestone, diatomite etc.), but open to metal mining (gold, silver, mercury etc.).

In the 1960's federal inventories withdrew land along the John Day River anticipating the need for future hydroelectric dam sites.

Currently the John Day Basin has spring, mineral, and power site withdrawals scattered throughout the planning area.

LAND OWNERSHIP

"People are moving in and staying. They don't need the land to make a living."
[Gilliam County Resident- JKA, 2006]

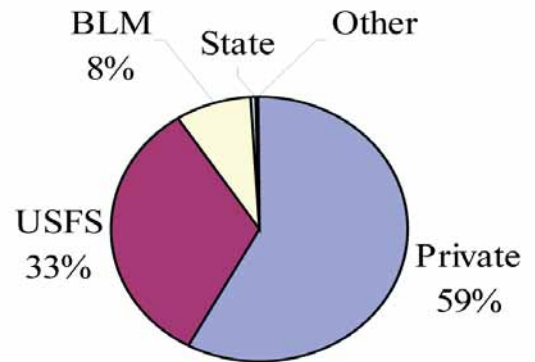
The Western landscape is dominated by open spaces broken by numerous plateaus, mountain ranges, occasionally fences and an increasing amount of urban and suburban areas. Historically, urban areas of the west specialized in the acquisition and distribution of products produced from the surrounding farms, ranches, and forests. The larger ranches were slowly divided and our modern transportation system was developed. Many urban centers are now surrounded by suburban areas, which are then bordered by hobby farms adjacent to public lands.

In the John Day Basin planning area this transition from large landownership to a more fragmented ownership pattern has occurred more slowly than in many parts of the west. Many communities maintain a remnant dependency on the surrounding lands and have yet to fully experience the transition to a Western landscape characterized by suburban areas, and small farms surrounding urban areas. Settlement patterns are however changing, as long-time ranches are bought by wealthier urbanites who often purchase for recreation or conservation purposes (JKA, 2006).

Ownership across the John Day Basin Planning area is dominated by Private landholdings which comprise 59 percent of the total 5.4 million acre planning area. USFS and BLM land make up 33 percent and 8 percent of the plan area respectively. State land, Indian Affairs, National Park, and Army Corps of Engineers make up less than 1 percent of plan area ownership (See Map 1 and Figure 32).

The southern and eastern portions of the planning area contain a high proportion of public lands dominated by US forest Service land. These areas are characterized by USFS land in the higher elevations and BLM land in the lower elevations and drainages.

FIGURE 32: LAND OWNERSHIP IN THE JDBRMP AREA



Source: BLM GIS database, 2006

Passage of the Oregon Land Exchange Act in 2000 resulted in a land ownership adjustment in Northeast Oregon, primarily in Grant County. In exchange for public lands disposed of in this Act, the BLM acquired approximately 44 thousand acres along the North Fork of the John Day River.

LEASES AND PERMITS (RECREATION AND PUBLIC PURPOSES ACT)

Temporary land use permits or leases may be used to authorize such activities as trespass prior to resolution, access, storage, apiary sites national guard or military reserve training, engineering feasibility studies, and other miscellaneous short-term activities. In the John Day Basin Planning Area there are numerous agricultural leases on BLM lands for which fees are not collected.

The Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP) authorizes the sale or lease of BLM managed lands for recreational or public purposes to State and local governments and to qualified nonprofit organizations. In the John Day Basin planning area the transfer of land utilized for a dump to Prairie City under the R&PP Act has been attempted but has not occurred.

WATER

Water is the fundamental resource of the John Day Basin. It enables plants to grow and is essential for wildlife. People need water to drink, for play, and to support livestock grazing, irrigation, mining and other economic enterprises. Who gets water and when and how they get it are questions that have dominated the west for over a century and a half.

These questions are answered through the allocation of water rights. Surface and ground water are the property of the State and the Oregon Water Resources Department administers the water to those who have a water right.

Water rights are important tools that have allowed BLM to accomplish a wide variety of their multiple use objectives. Water rights can be used to extract minerals, provide wildlife habitat, and preserve aquatic life. The majority of water rights on BLM land are for irrigation. BLM actively manages over 700 acres of the irrigation water rights under the John Day Wild and Scenic River Plan and the Sutton Mountain Coordinated Resource Management Plan. The remaining 1175 acres of irrigation occur on scattered pieces of agricultural land through out the plan area. Approximately one third of BLM's water rights are related to mining. The majority of the mining water rights are located near John Day on Little Canyon Mountain. This area was hydraulically mined for gold in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Many of the water rights completely overlap each other and include a